

HB 1302 -- WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION FEES

SPONSOR: Cooper (155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill increases the fee for a certificate of number when registering the following vessels:

- (1) Under 16 feet in length from \$10 to \$25;
- (2) 16 feet to 26 feet in length from \$20 to \$55;
- (3) 26 feet to 40 feet in length from \$30 to \$100; and
- (4) 40 feet and longer from \$40 to \$150.

The first \$2 million collected annually for numbering will be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. All fees collected in excess of \$2 million will be deposited into the newly created Missouri State Water Patrol Fund. Moneys in this fund, subject to appropriation, will be used solely for the expenses of the State Water Patrol. Revenue remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium will not revert to the credit of the General Revenue Fund.

When applying for or renewing a vessel's certificate of number from the state or for a vessel documented with the United States Coast Guard, the owner must submit proof that all personal property taxes owed or previously owed on the vessel have been paid or that no taxes were due.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Income on General Revenue Fund of \$233,925 in FY 2007, \$280,710 in FY 2008, and \$280,710 in FY 2009. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$2,282,438 in FY 2007, \$2,738,925 in FY 2008, and \$2,738,925 in FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill creates a fund to assist the pay parity issue in the water patrol by increasing the fees to register boats. Tourism is big business in Missouri, and the need for safety on the water is essential. A study prepared a few years ago stated that Missouri needs 126 water patrol officers but currently has only 90. The need for officers exists on canoe streams as well as on Missouri's lakes. The property tax receipt requirement will bring additional money to schools and assist assessors in locating owners of boats.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Cooper (155) and Moore; Missouri Water Patrol Association; Lake of the Ozarks

Convention and Visitor Bureau; Tri-County Lodging Association; Lake of the Ozarks Marine Dealers Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; Miller County Assessor; and Missouri State Troopers Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Karla Strobels, Legislative Analyst